First Nations Forestry Program

In partnership with First Nations

Annual Report
2005–2006

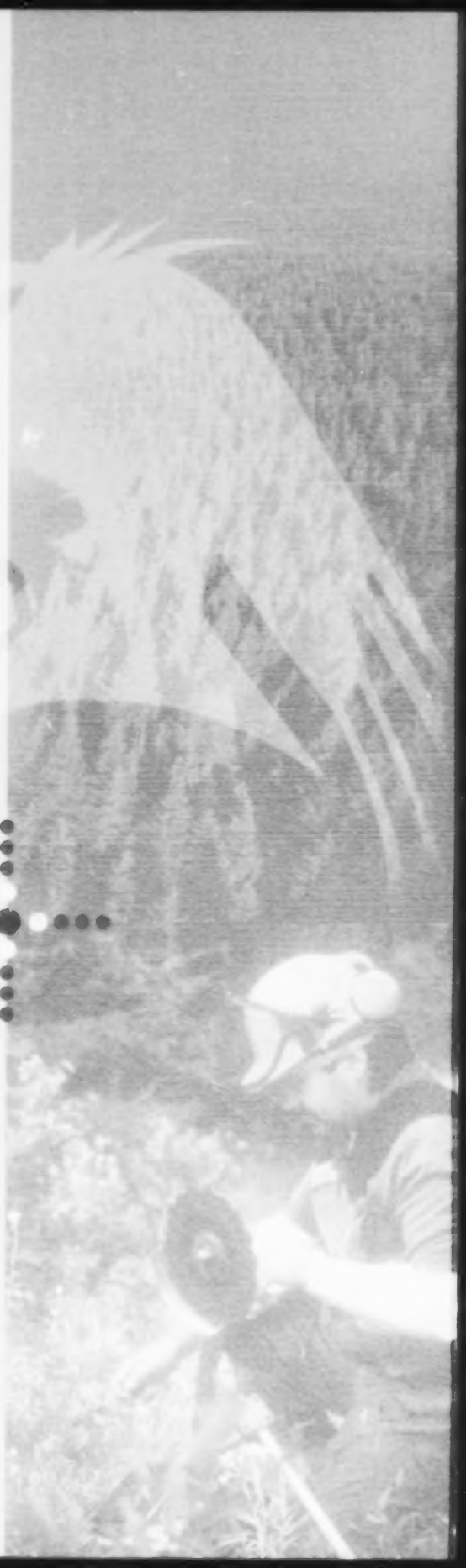
Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

The purpose of the

First Nations Forestry Program

is to improve economic conditions in status First Nation communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management.



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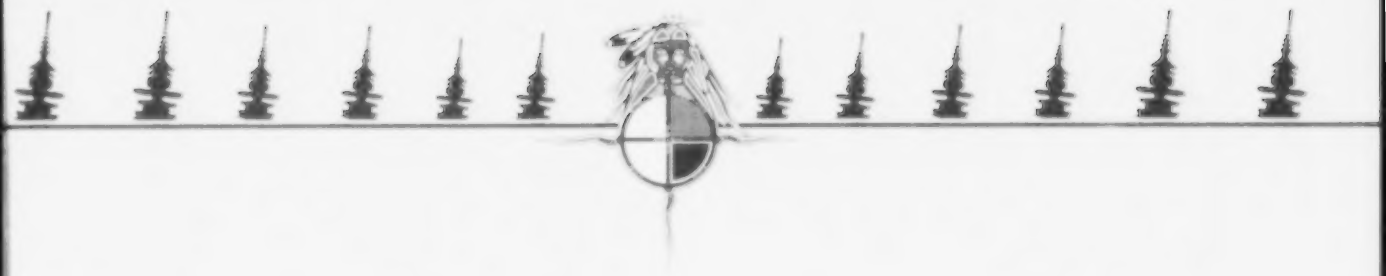

First Nations Forestry Program

Annual Report
2005–2006

A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN

Natural Resources Canada and
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

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Report Highlights

Report Highlights

In 2005–2006, 162 projects valued at $11.4 million were completed.

First Nations and other partners (for example, private industry and provincial–territorial governments) are important contributors to the success of First Nations Forestry Program projects.

Participation in the program continues to expand to new communities and organizations. In 2005–2006, there were 16 new communities participating in the program.

First Nations Forestry Program projects are divided among forest management, skills training, and business development activities. Projects to increase access to forest resources are still a small portion of program funding.

The Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative focused on forest rehabilitation on British Columbia First Nations reserve lands in the infected zone. Project activities included beetle control treatments and site rehabilitation activities and treatments.

The popular First Nations Forestry Program Success Stories *was published in 2005–2006.*

Year in Review

Introduction

The First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) is the federal government's primary First Nations forestry capacity-building program. Jointly funded by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the FNFP helps First Nations communities in the transition to self-sufficiency by funding projects to enhance their capacity to access and manage forest resources and by promoting sustainable economic activity through partnerships involving First Nations communities, the forest industry, and provincial/territorial governments.

Since its inception in 1996, the FNFP has funded about 1700 projects valued at $148 million in over 450 communities across Canada. During this period, the FNFP has contributed approximately $38 million, or 27%, toward overall project costs. First Nations, provinces, territories, and the forest industry are key partners in ensuring the success of projects across the country.

First Nations and the Changing Forest Sector

The past few years have brought extensive changes to the forest sector and to communities that depend on Canada's forests. As documented in *The State of Canada's Forests 2005–2006*, tabled by Minister Lunn at the September 2006 National Forest Congress, the industry transition is being precipitated by forces such as changes in timber supply, higher energy and other production costs, stiffer international competition, and a stronger Canadian dollar. Rising costs and shifting demand are leading to mill closures and restructuring within firms, and forest-dependent communities, including many First Nations communities, are undergoing great changes as a result.

Communities in those areas that have been hard-hit are looking for different opportunities from their forests that can help them rebuild for the future, including new developments in Canada's value-added wood industry, embracing innovation and new technologies, and increasing bioenergy opportunities.

There are still opportunities for First Nations in areas that have been less affected. Forestry firms in rural and remote areas are facing workforce shortages and many are looking to better access the youthful and growing First Nations workforce in neighbouring First Nations communities.

As the forest sector shifts, the FNFP is seeking to adapt to new pressures and ensure that First Nations that depend on the forest are able to tap into these new opportunities.

Program Budget

In 2005–2006, the total budget was $6.5 million, with funding sources as shown in Table 1.

FNFP contribution funds are allocated to First Nations forestry-related projects primarily at the community level. Operating funds partly support First Nations participation in program management, and advocacy and education in First Nations forestry.

Table 1. FNFP 2005–2006 budget ($million).

	NRCan	INAC	Total
Contributions	1.000	2.875	3.875
Operating expenses			
Salaries	0.500	0.125	0.625
O&M	0.250	0.250	0.500
Total FNFP	**1.750**	**3.250**	**5.000**
Additional funding from BC Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative — First Nations Element	1.5		6.5

Program Management and Delivery Structure

The management structure of the FNFP contributes to the success of the program by offering flexibility that recognizes the diversity of First Nations across the country and meets regional needs and opportunities. First Nations are directly involved in the prioritization of regional objectives.

The management and delivery of the FNFP in each province or territory is carried out by a provincial or territorial management committee (PTMC) which sets regional program priorities, direction, and guidelines, including project funding and approvals. The committee comprises a majority of First Nations representatives in partnership with NRCan and INAC. Forest industry representatives, provincial governments, and other federal departments are also invited.

Through this management structure, First Nations can have a strong influence on the direction of the program while being able to draw on the expertise of other committee members. NRCan's Canadian Forest Service offers professional forestry expertise and experience and scientific and technological knowledge. INAC offers established links with First Nations communities and other economic development programming. Representation by forest industry and provincial governments on some PTMCs provides additional expertise and experience.

The FNFP management structure allows First Nations to contribute to the direction of the program and to develop program management capacity.

Number of Projects

In 2005–2006, 284 submissions were made to the FNFP of which 165 were approved for funding for an approval rate of 58%. Table 2 shows the number of projects submitted and approved by province or territory.

Table 2. Projects submitted and approved 2005–2006

	No. projects submitted	No. projects approved	Approval rate (%)
BC	91	39	43
AB	43	14	33
SK	20	12	60
MB	25	14	56
ON	47	41	87
QC	29	24	83
NB	8	7	88
NL	2	2	100
NS	2[1]	2	100
PE	1	1	100
NT	14	7	50
YT	1	1	100
Nat'l	1	1	100
Total	284	165	58

[1] In Nova Scotia, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq makes one proposal for 13 FNFP projects in each of 13 NS First Nations.

Funding from First Nations and Partners

Of the 165 projects approved for funding, 162 were completed as per plan. The total value of projects was $11.35 million. Table 3 shows the value of projects by province.

Table 3. Value of projects by province.

	FNFP contribution	Total value of projects
BC	815 203	1 241 352
AB	342 499	639 612
SK	360 600	890 946
MB	279 251	1 052 366
ON	645 247	2 423 057
QC	596 993	2 732 093
NB	218 875	1 565 947
NL	40 300	161 858
NS	201 800	306 300
PE	10 300	14 300
NT	69 220	172 058
YT	98 200	130 600
Nat'l	15 000	20 300
Total	$ 3 693 488	$11 350 789

Contribution expenditures for FNFP projects in 2005–2006 totaled $3.7 million. In most regions, projects receiving FNFP funding must have Chief and council support and funding from the community. Many projects also receive funding from other sources such as the forest industry, provincial and territorial governments, and other federal agencies. The majority of FNFP funding is exceeded by cash and in-kind support from First Nations proponents. Figure 1 shows sources of funding for FNFP projects.

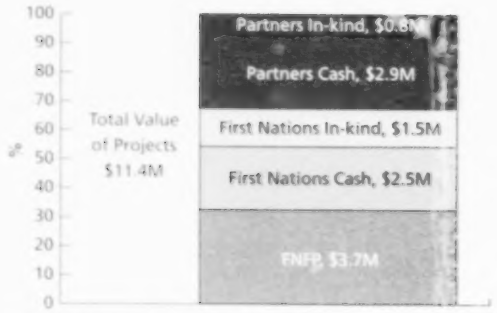


Figure 1. Sources of FNFP project funding 2005–2006.

Community Participation

The FNFP helped to fund projects for 163 First Nations communities, organizations, or businesses in 2005–2006. Of these, 16 received FNFP support for the first time, indicating that the FNFP is developing new opportunities and expanding coverage with first-time applicants.

Table 4 shows participation by First Nations community or organization.

Table 4. Community participation 2005–2006.

	Total communities / organizations	New communities / organizations
BC	33	0
AB	14	0
SK	10	1
MB	13	4
ON	39	7
QC	22	0
NB	7[1]	1[2]
NL	2	0
NS	13[3]	0
PE	1	0
NT	7	3
YT	1[4]	0
Nat'l	1	0
Total	**163**	**16**

[1] Includes the NB Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnerships (ASEP) initiative, involving all 15 NB First Nations.

[2] Includes only new communities that have received FNFP project funding, not new communities participating in ASEP.

[3] One contribution agreement with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, which implemented FNFP projects in each of the 13 First Nations communities in Nova Scotia.

[4] One contribution agreement for implementation of the FNFP for all 14 Yukon First Nations.

FNFP Business Lines

First Nations participation in forestry and the forest sector requires capacity in interrelated areas. FNFP projects help to build capacity in each of the following four business areas (Fig. 2).

Business Development
e.g. feasibility plans, business plans, partnership agreements
Forest Management
e.g. forest management plans, resource inventories, silviculture, traditional land-use studies
Skills Training
e.g. harvesting & silviculture training, forest management skills, firefighting training
Access to Forest Resources
e.g. negotiations, co-management, crown land tenure, forest licences

Figure 2. FNFP business lines.

Forest Management

The majority of First Nations are at the developmental stage of forest management capacity, requiring support to manage and develop forest resources. The FNFP provides funding for tools to increase forest management capacity such as forest management plans, forest inventory assessments, and traditional land-use studies. It also provides funding for on-reserve forest management initiatives such as silviculture and stand improvement activities.

Business Development

Many First Nations are also seeking greater participation in and benefits from the forest sector through forest-based business opportunities on and off reserve. The FNFP provides funding support for business feasibility studies, market analyses, and business planning.

Skills Training

There is still a significant gap between First Nations and other Canadians in terms of employment and income. Forestry and logging remain an important source of employment for First Nations, relative to the overall Canadian labour force. To increase First Nations employment in the forest sector, many First Nations require skills training in, for example, stand tending, harvesting, forest mapping, forest inventory, and sawmill operations. The FNFP helps fund these training activities.

Access to Forest Resources

The FNFP supports First Nations to increase their access to forest resources by providing funding to help in crown land acquisition and support for background research in forest licence applications and for forest tenure mapping.

The types of projects that are supported by the program will depend on both the regional priorities set by the PTMC and the types of projects that are submitted for approval. Figure 3 shows the expenditure of FNFP funds by business line: forest management

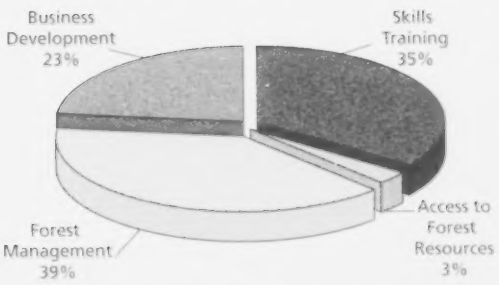


Figure 3. FNFP project funding by business line 2005–2006.

(39%) and skills training (35%) were the focus of the FNFP in 2005–2006. Business development remains a key activity (23%). Funding to increase First Nations access to forest resources through land tenure acquisition (currently 3%) is expected to increase as provinces provide more opportunity for First Nations to access crown lands.

FNFP Outreach and Communications

In addition to funding projects in each of four business lines, the FNFP also supports advocacy and education in First Nations forestry. A variety of communications and outreach activities were undertaken in 2005–2006 to meet the objectives of the program, but with the added goals of expanding the target audiences, communicating and highlighting FNFP successes, and improving existing information and outreach services for First Nations forest managers.

Outreach

Two major steps were taken to expand the target audiences. The FNFP Client Database, used in distribution of program information, was updated to ensure that publications and materials reach a broader audience, including new entries for many First Nations individuals, organizations, and tribal councils. A specific focus was placed on reaching out to Aboriginal youth through two workshops funded by the FNFP and partners. The first was Forestry and Science for Aboriginal Youth, a workshop held in Edmonton, Alberta (September 2005), in which 32 Aboriginal youth participated. The second was Engaging Aboriginal Youth in Forestry, a nationally sponsored, by invitation event held in Winnipeg, Manitoba (January 2006), which drew 63 participants.

One of the major vehicles for program outreach is the FNFP Web site. Two streams of work began in 2005–2006: 1) improvement of information on the existing site; and 2) development of a new Web architecture and presence. National and provincial/territorial management contact information was updated and the visual format simplified. Frequently Asked Questions and an FNFP management structure page were added to help visitors understand what the program is about and how it is managed across Canada. As well, a new project module that operates from a scroll-over map and draws information directly from the FNFP project database was added. Feedback indicates that these activities have brought more visitors to the FNFP Web site, and the groundwork has been laid for launching a new and dynamic FNFP Web presence in the new fiscal year.

Communications

Several national and regional reports and publications were produced, including the Report to the Ministers and FNFP annual reports, and FNFP projects were featured in local and national newsletters. Highlighting the year's publication activities was the *First Nations Forestry Program Success Stories*, which included a copy of the newly produced *FNFP Tool Kit CD*. This publication/CD combination was distributed to over 4000 recipients, and a further 3000 CDs have been sent out. The FNFP also published *An Exploration of On-reserve Forest Management Capacity and Forest Certification Interest in First Nations Communities across Canada*, and it supported the National Aboriginal Forestry Association in producing the report *Major Forest Sector Issues and Initiatives and Their Impact on Aboriginal Communities*.

Project Audits

To ensure that FNFP expenditures comply with the terms and conditions of the program and, consequently, meet the objectives of the program, four project recipients are audited annually. In 2005–2006, four projects from the previous fiscal year were audited by Consulting and Audit Canada: Ochekwi Sipi Economic Development Corporation (MB), Missanabie Cree First Nation (ON), Pabineau First Nation (NB), and Island Lake First Nation (SK).

As a result of this audit, action is being taken to improve the FNFP's system of risk management: internal instruction and clarification are being provided to project managers to ensure that all sections in the Manual of Standards and Procedures on recipient financial reporting are clearly understood; and the guidelines manual describing cost eligibility and reporting procedures is being distributed to all program recipients.

Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative—First Nations Element

British Columbia is currently experiencing a mountain pine beetle (MPB) outbreak beyond any recorded in provincial history. The epidemic is causing widespread mortality of the lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*), the province's most abundant commercial tree species, putting the forest industry at risk and threatening the stability and long-term economic well-being of 97 First Nations and over 30 other communities. The consequences of this epidemic will be felt for decades in British Columbia.

The current beetle epidemic has killed approximately 411 million cubic metres of timber and has spread

across about 8.7 million hectares in the central and southern interior of British Columbia. At the current rate of spread, it is predicted that 80% of the mature pine will be dead by 2013. The epidemic is initially creating an increase in economic activity as timber harvest levels are being increased to use dead trees before they decay and lose their commercial value. The loss of future fibre supply, however, presents a significant challenge to the British Columbia forest sector, the communities affected, and the province as a whole.

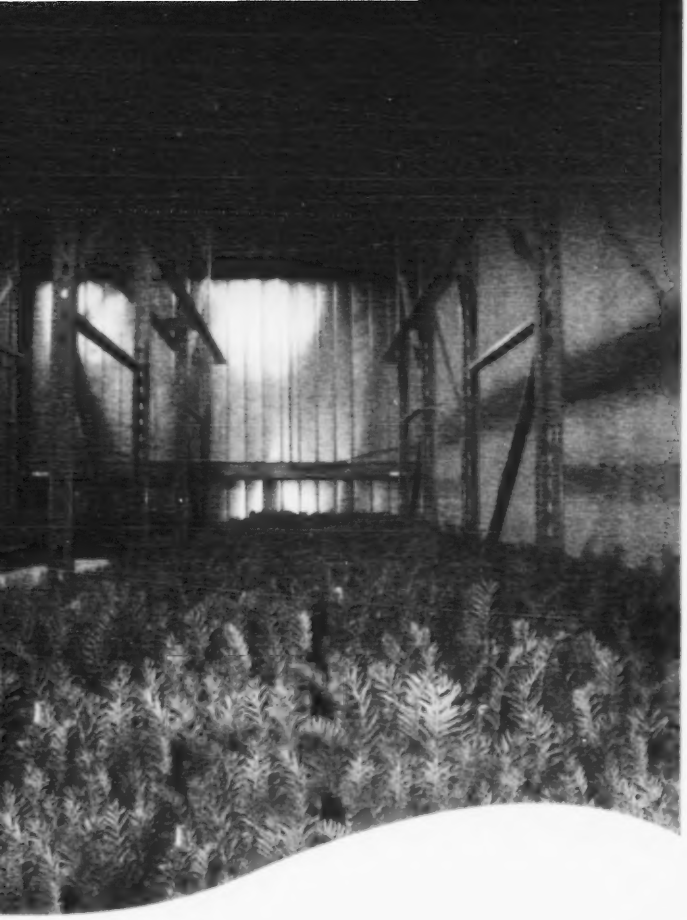
NRCan's Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative (MPBI) to mitigate the impact of the beetle in British Columbia includes a First Nations element, which focuses on forest rehabilitation on reserve lands in the infected zone. Eligible recipients are First Nations bands and tribal councils with forest lands affected by the infestation.

In 2003–2006, the MPBI—First Nations element contributed $634 000 to support 40 MPB control and site rehabilitation projects on First Nations lands. Project activities include MPB control treatments (MPB management strategies, ground surveys, treatment prescriptions, fall and burn, sanitation harvesting, salvage harvesting, baiting) and MPB site rehabilitation activities and treatments (site preparation, seedling acquisition, planting, etc.). A new Forest Fuel Management Activity was incorporated into the program to assist First Nations communities affected by MPB to mitigate risks from wildfires. Eligible activities include forest fuel management plans and plan implementation, including layout of treatments areas, thinning, pruning, fuel reduction and removal, planting, and fire and fuel breaks. Twenty-one First Nations participated and were funded to carry out forest fuel management projects in protecting their community core areas from forest fires.

Planning Ahead

The current Treasury Board program authority for the FNFP has been extended to March 2009. To help develop options for future programming, program officials at NRCan and INAC will be working with the PTMC members from across the country to explore changing needs and opportunities in First Nations forestry.

First Nations Forestry Program
Success Stories



Thessalon First Nation Bio Centre Grow Operation

Since acquiring the former Thessalon Tree Nursery from the Government of Ontario, Thessalon First Nation has been pursuing opportunities to develop the Bio Centre facility into a self-supporting business venture. To this end, the First Nation entered into a mutually beneficial Memorandum of Understanding with Mississauga First Nation to investigate a tree seedling production business and joint training opportunities.

Eight members of the Thessalon First Nation, including four youth interns and four members of the Mississauga First Nation, were hired to undertake training provided by forestry and greenhouse consultants for 20 weeks.

A consultant was contracted to design, develop, and deliver a training program for the operational application of growing 350 000 jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) tree seedlings, incorporating all aspects of the tree seedling business.

Another consultant was hired to deliver a Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*) training program that would investigate Canada yew's potential as a value-added crop for the Bio Centre. Current projections indicate a need for a 10% increase in paclitaxel per year (derived from Canada yew), suggesting a significant market potential for a cultivated yew crop. Thirty thousand Canada yew cuttings were collected, propagated, and planted in the nursery facility.

Due to the success of this training and work experience program, both Thessalon First Nation and Mississauga First Nation now have a skilled workforce in greenhouse operations that will ensure the viability of the Bio Centre facility.

The FNFP supported the project with $17 000 for consultant services, nursery utilities, and nursery equipment. The project was also supported by the Thessalon First Nation Local Delivery Mechanism (Human Resources and Social Development Canada) and Mississauga First Nation with $137 500 cash for consultant services, greenhouse management, administration, and trainee wages. Thessalon First Nation contributed $22 500 in cash and in-kind for the greenhouses, classroom facilities, and production materials.

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2005 FNFP Regional Youth Conference

Over the past 10 years, the Canadian Forest Service's Northern Forestry Centre has sponsored and organized biennial conferences to address key issues affecting First Nations in the Prairies. The theme of the 2005 FNFP conference (March 16–18) held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was "First Nation Youth: Partnerships and Careers in Forestry." Unlike previous FNFP conferences that were organized exclusively by Canadian Forest Service staff, the 2005 event was organized by the Black River First Nation on behalf of the Manitoba FNFP PTMC. In addition to funding from the FNFP program, the Black River First Nation attracted several other conference sponsors, including Manitoba Hydro, Tembec Industries, and Abitibi Consolidated.

The keynote speakers were impressive and included Grand Chief Chris Henderson, Chief Fran Abraham (Black River First Nation), the Honourable Oscar Lathlin (Manitoba Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs), the Honourable Jim Rondeau (Manitoba Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines), and the Honourable Jim Struthers (Manitoba Minister of Conservation). They all stressed the need for a coordinated effort by federal and provincial levels of government, the forest industry, and First Nations to develop policies and programs that encouraged the participation of and employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth in the forest sector. Specific case studies of forestry and First Nations youth were provided by the 14 presenters.

This event was a success for two reasons. First, it provided an opportunity for First Nations youth who attended to discover the many educational and employment opportunities in the forest sector. Second, the conference was a precursor to a follow-up regional workshop in Edmonton in September 2005 and a national workshop, Engaging Aboriginal Youth in Forestry, in Winnipeg in January 2006.

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Aboriginal Forest Industries Council

When the idea of a business association for First Nations forestry became reality 4 years ago, it was because of the vision and support of the FNFP.

As a result, the Aboriginal Forest Industries Council (AFIC) was created as a forum for professional development among First Nations practitioners involved in the management or ownership of a forest enterprise. The core concept involved providing First Nations forestry operators with the kind of mutually supportive networking opportunities that are essential and readily available to other business sectors and professional groups.

That vision shared by AFIC and FNFP has paid remarkable dividends, particularly over the past 2 years as First Nations in British Columbia have substantially increased their access to forest tenures. Many of these tenure-holders are part of AFIC's membership base comprising over 80 First Nations forest enterprises. As members, they have participated in several AFIC business clinics throughout British Columbia that are structured to sharpen management skills and promote the exchange of business solutions. These business clinics in 2005–2006 were made possible partly through the support of the FNFP.

As chairman of AFIC, Earl Smith draws on decades of experience in First Nations forestry from his early success negotiating the first Aboriginal tenure in British Columbia to his recent years as an advisor to a major forest company on First Nations relationships. Commenting on the increased access to tenure for First Nations in British Columbia, Smith says, "The key to turning ACCESS into SUCCESS is the development of a strong management culture among First Nations." He sees the role of AFIC as being critical to the process of creating that management culture.

The AFIC Board views the sharing of success stories as a valuable means of building confidence and enthusiasm among First Nations for emerging opportunities. To that end, AFIC developed the magazine *Forest Horizons*, the only publication of its kind dedicated exclusively to the business of Aboriginal forestry.

Increased Aboriginal tenures, as well as pending treaties, will substantially increase the scope of First Nations forestry in the province. The need for a business voice for First Nations forestry will grow accordingly. AFIC is well positioned to play that role.

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FNFP Yukon: Log-Home Building Training

In Yukon, there are 14 Yukon First Nations (YFN) communities and all of them participate in the FNFP Yukon. Throughout the past 10 years, the YFN, the Forest Management Branch of the Yukon Government (YG), and INAC have worked collectively in the development of the FNFP Yukon.

The FNFP Management Committee is composed of one representative from each of the 14 YFN. There are two additional representatives, one from the CFS, NRCan; and one from the Forest Management Branch, YG.

All representatives have voting powers on projects and are invited to all FNFP Management Committee meetings. Each representative has input in the discussions and decision-making processes for FNFP activities and work plans.

Capacity building and skill development to construct log homes were identified by the FNFP Management Committee as an important project. The 14 YFN chiefs also support this project to help strengthen the community's capacity of a skilled workforce.

This initiative will:

1) create opportunities and focus on skill development by using the knowledge of local trades people;

2) create strong partnerships between the First Nations communities and private sector trades people such as electricians, plumbers, and carpenters, as well as building suppliers;

3) support economic growth by creating sustainable development capacity in the community(s); and

4) create self-sufficiency, independence, and a sense of self-worth for the participants, which will result in a healthier community in the long term.

The expected outcomes of this initiative will be:

- productive use of available forest resources;
- enhanced capacity of community members in log-home building; and
- long-term positive economic impacts in all of the Yukon communities involved.

This training was offered in four communities, Haines Junction, Dawson, Teslin, and Carmacks, to share the resources and to allow for easier access of the trainers and trainees.

The success of this project is based on the cooperation of the FNFP Yukon; the Targeted Investment Program (INAC); HRSDC (Service Canada); Training Policy Committee; Training Trust Fund; Department of Education (YG); Community Development Fund (YG); and the Council of Yukon First Nations.

Other Possible Funding Partners	$
FNFP Funds	32 000
Targeted Investment Fund	250 000
Service Canada	100 000
Training Policy Committee	32 000
Department of Education	31 000
Community Development Fund	20 000
Total	**465 000**

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Dynamic Seminar on Forestry Certification

On September 27 and 28, 2005, the Seminar on Certification of Forestry Practices for Aboriginal Forestry Organizations was held in Quebec City. This seminar was made possible by a partnership between the FNFP (CFS, INAC), the Forestry Innovation Partnership (FERIC, FORINTEK, CFS), and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute.

Over 40 participants working for 24 Aboriginal organizations active in the forest industry were given the opportunity to learn about the various certification processes used in sustainable forest management in Canada. Thanks to their active participation in six workshops, participants were also able to work through each of the steps for implementing an environmental management system in compliance with the ISO-14001 standard relevant to Aboriginal forestry management.

The participants returned to their communities enriched by the experience. Each was provided with course material, including a guide on how to implement the ISO standard certification process. This tool kit will enable the participants to make presentations in their own communities, assess and respond to requests from industry, and introduce clients to local certification processes. In turn, their communities can begin to plan and direct their operations toward ISO certification of their organization and land management. Workshop participants were highly satisfied with both the relevance of the subject matter and the training approach using on-the-ground experience.

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Prince Albert Grand Council Firefighter Certification Course

Since 1995, the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) has had a contract with the Government of Saskatchewan to provide firefighters for community protection, which was renegotiated in 2006 for another 3 years. Under the contract, PAGC provides community firefighters with Type 2 certification, as well as emergency firefighters with Type 3 certification as required.

At present, there are 23 crews of 6 members, each based in the Prince Albert Grand Council communities within the boreal forest for a total of 138 crew members. The crews are hired mid-April to work until the end of August for a total of 20 weeks. Crew members are required to meet Type 2 certification standard, which change slightly each year. Consequently, the crews require training each year to ensure that they consistently meet the certification level.

The other half of Saskatchewan's 34 fire crews come from the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, unaffiliated bands, and Metis communities. These crews are managed through their respective agencies, while PAGC is responsible for providing all of the firefighting training. PAGC also maintains a database indicating level of certification and validation dates for all firefighters in Saskatchewan. This database is consulted when emergency firefighters are required and to select new crew members.

The number of firefighters and required courses vary each year, depending on the certification requirements each year, current weather patterns, and the severity of the fires. For example, 2005–2006 was a wet year and there was not a great need for Type 1 firefighters. Prince Albert Grand Council organized five courses beyond the recertification courses and a total of 78 people took the training. In 2004–2005, 22 courses were held and 374 people took training. As of July 31, 2006, 12 basic courses have been held and 180 people were trained. Very dry weather in July resulted in a total of 453 fires, which is up from 309 last year but lower than the 5-year average of 509.

The contract to provide firefighting training ties in with traditional First Nations skills and job opportunities and enables PAGC to capitalize on individual members' skills.

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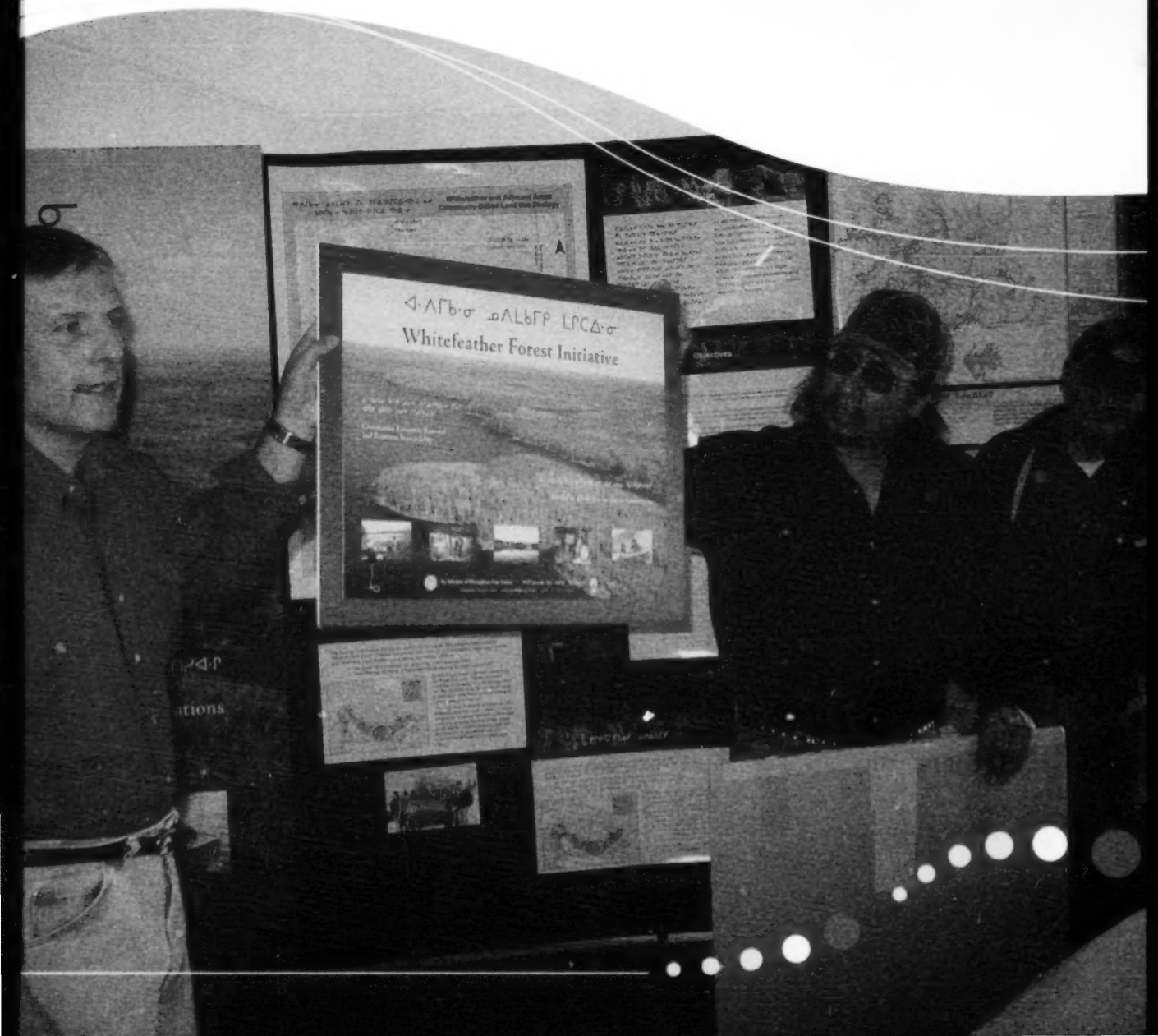
The living ones—yesterday, today, and tomorrow: The Whitefeather Forest Initiative

Andrew Chapeskie, June 7, 2006



Background

The Whitefeather Forest Initiative is a proposal for forestry operations in the far north of Ontario. The question immediately arises whether a region that is often described as "untouched by man," "pristine," "intact," and a "virgin wilderness" should be conserved in its wild and natural state free from industrial development in perpetuity. Forestry, if it is allowed, should take place only in "islands of development in a sea of protected land," as stated in an Opinion and Editorial page article in the New York Times (May 30, 2006).

Is such a proposal prudent and wise? Not only is it prudent and wise, according to the Elders of Pikangikum First Nation leading a Steering Group to develop the proposed Whitefeather Forest Initiative (WFI), but it is a strategy they intend to use to ensure that their forest remains the forest as given to them by the Creator. Their proposal for forestry is at the centre of a suite of proposals for more than one million hectares of forest that the Elders call the Whitefeather Forest, which lies in the heart of their ancestral territories.

Forestry is the centrepiece of the strategy developed under the guidance of the Elders of Pikangikum, together with their partners, by which the First Nation and its partners will achieve their vision of "Keeping the Land" — Cheekahnahwaydahmungk Keetahkeemeenaan. Forestry is, at the same time, at the heart of a broader strategy to achieve community economic renewal for a First Nation that is coming back from the historical demographic collapse caused by devastating plagues, non-native policies of assimilation, and, most recently, the collapse of their fur trade economy in the 1980s.

The strategy of Pikangikum people is to develop the WFI so that all living ones are sustained as the Creator intended, that is, in the context of community economic renewal through new resource-based opportunities, including harvesting. Pikangikum people believe this to be both possible and ethical.

The driving force in developing the WFI is the ability of the people to sustain the land by following the teachings of the Elders while carrying out a new land use (forestry) in the Whitefeather Forest. This is to be accomplished by combining the indigenous knowledge tradition of the Pikangikum people and the expertise of the non-native people.

An Indigenous Cultural Landscape

Through the WFI, Pikangikum First Nation people hope to provide Canadians with a new understanding of the "Great Northern Forest" where Pikangikum people live. They are inviting Canadians to see the Whitefeather Forest as a living landscape in which First Nations are the only year-round residents — a cultural landscape in which indigenous people are reflected in the land and the land in them. It is an invitation from the Elders to a paradigm of resource stewardship specifically tailored to this forest by forming a working partnership with Pikangikum people to sustain every living one in the Whitefeather Forest. It is an invitation to contribute to sustaining the indigenous culture of Pikangikum people. Finally, it is an invitation to participate in a partnership of economic renewal through contemporary indigenous enterprise.

Pikangikum people are inviting others to see their lands in a new way — beyond the dichotomy of wilderness and developed land — and to consider an enduring indigenous approach to resource stewardship achieved through harvesting. They are inviting others into the reality of their indigenous cultural landscape.

Toward this goal, the Whitefeather indigenous knowledge (IK) database records the names of Pikangikum people who planted Manomin years ago—names like Ogeemaah Miikanahk, Eenchokay, and Wiigwaas Aahtik. Development of the IK database was mandated by the Elders to support the WFI. It was developed by the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation research and GIS employees in Pikangikum and became a key source of the information supporting development of the draft Community-based Land-use Strategy. The database also records information on the Pikangikum indigenous pyrotechnology landscape management tradition that had not been understood by non-native people and was suppressed for several generations to prevent forest fires. The IK database has become an important tool in making the cultural landscape and "the Invisible Indian" visible to non-native people. The database now has more than 11000 entries and continues to grow.

The Planning

Consider the following ingredients of WFI planning: a large group of Elders who are walking encyclopedias of their land and the IK and resource stewardship tradition of their people; dedicated First Nation leaders; Aboriginal youth who love and cling to their First Nation (fewer than 60 members of Pikanigkum's 2400 members live off-reserve) and are craving new economic opportunities; highly skilled Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) planners, foresters, and managers; a supporting provincial Northern Boreal Initiative policy framework;[1] biologists and social scientists, including academics from institutions associated with the Whitefeather Forest Research Cooperative;[2] technicians with a broad range of experience in community economic development and natural resource management; recognition and substantial funding support from sources such as the First Nations Forestry Program, FedNor, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, and Ontario's Living Legacy Trust.

The results:

- a holistic planning approach that has been nurtured since 1996 when the WFI was first proposed by Pikangikum to the OMNR;
- a planning process that has been led by Pikangikum, under the strict guidance of the Elders of the First Nation, and moved forward through cooperation with partners who committed to a new approach to planning specific to the WFI that focuses locally within an indigenous cultural framework while thinking globally throughout the process;
- planning supported by ongoing dialogue with neighbouring First Nations as well as a broad range of other interested parties who contributed to the process; and
- an information-rich planning process, in which IK is critical, that has identified where new land-use activities can take place in the WFI.

The result is an innovative community-based land-use strategy rooted in IK and partnered with the best of non-native knowledge. The plan incorporates vast amounts of information, which is considered in a fertile cross-cultural setting. This strategy expresses the confidence of Pikangikum people in their own capacity.

Land-use Strategy

The Whitefeather Land-use Strategy provides vision statements, guiding principles, and direction for an array of land uses, beginning with customary livelihood pursuits and extending to new land-use opportunities in the forestry, mineral, tourism, and non-timber forest products sectors. It also identifies recreation opportunities and facilitates future infrastructure needs such as an all-weather road supporting neighbouring First Nations goals. The proposed commercial forest area covers approximately two-thirds of the Whitefeather Forest. No forestry, mining, or commercial hydro generation (outside of meeting community needs) will occur over approximately one-third of the area.

The fit between IK and the zones on the maps is striking. The concept of "natural boundaries" as taught by the Elders guided their delineation. In fact, the Elders were integral to the process of drawing them on the maps. Although grouped under a single category in translation, "natural boundaries" refer to ecological dynamics that in turn are essential to the overall ecological integrity of the forest.

[1] See Ontario's Environmental Registry, http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/016410ep.htm.
[2] See, for example, http://umanitoba.ca/institutes/natural_resources/nrn_cbrm_networks.html.

The following management innovations in forestry that will flow from IK have caught the interest of OMNR foresters and other research partners:

- seamless and holistic integrated management of the managed commercial forest with the non-commercial forest in the Whitefeather Forest;
- the use of natural boundaries to design timber harvest layouts in the forest (the cutblock will become the "cutcircle");
- timber harvesting techniques, for example, the use of processing heads on harvesters to leave natural seed sources (limbs and tops) for forest renewal within "cutcircles" delineated by natural boundaries;
- silvicultural renewal techniques such as in the use of prescribed burns in "cutcircles;" and
- building on the base of historical indigenous pyrotechnology knowledge and practices and integrating the knowledge with provincial expertise in the new land-use context of forestry.

The Whitefeather Land-use Strategy and the unique process used to develop it are already being studied at the Masters and Ph.D. levels by students under the guidance of researchers such as Iain Davidson-Hunt at the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba.

Community Economic Renewal

Although some have told Pikangikum people that their timber will produce only low-value commodities, Professor Mat Leitch of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay (a member of the Whitefeather Forest Research Cooperative) believes that some of the best and most valuable conifer timber in the world is to be found in the Whitefeather Forest. Pikangikum Elders have long known the value of the timber resources in their ancestral forests. They have carried forward prophecies that one day people will walk through the forest and find riches hanging from the trees. The Elders say that they created this opportunity for their descendants and that this is their legacy.

Potential enterprise opportunities in forestry for Pikangikum are significant. As the WFI is being developed, leaders like Alex Peters have established partnerships to create interim opportunities that embody the teaching of the Elders to waste nothing that is harvested. One of the most significant opportunities resulted from a long-standing close working relationship between Pikangikum and the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, which led to the 2005 signing of a formal partnership agreement for value-added forest products enterprise development. The Wabigoon Group value-added enterprise initiative is close to being finalized and involves:

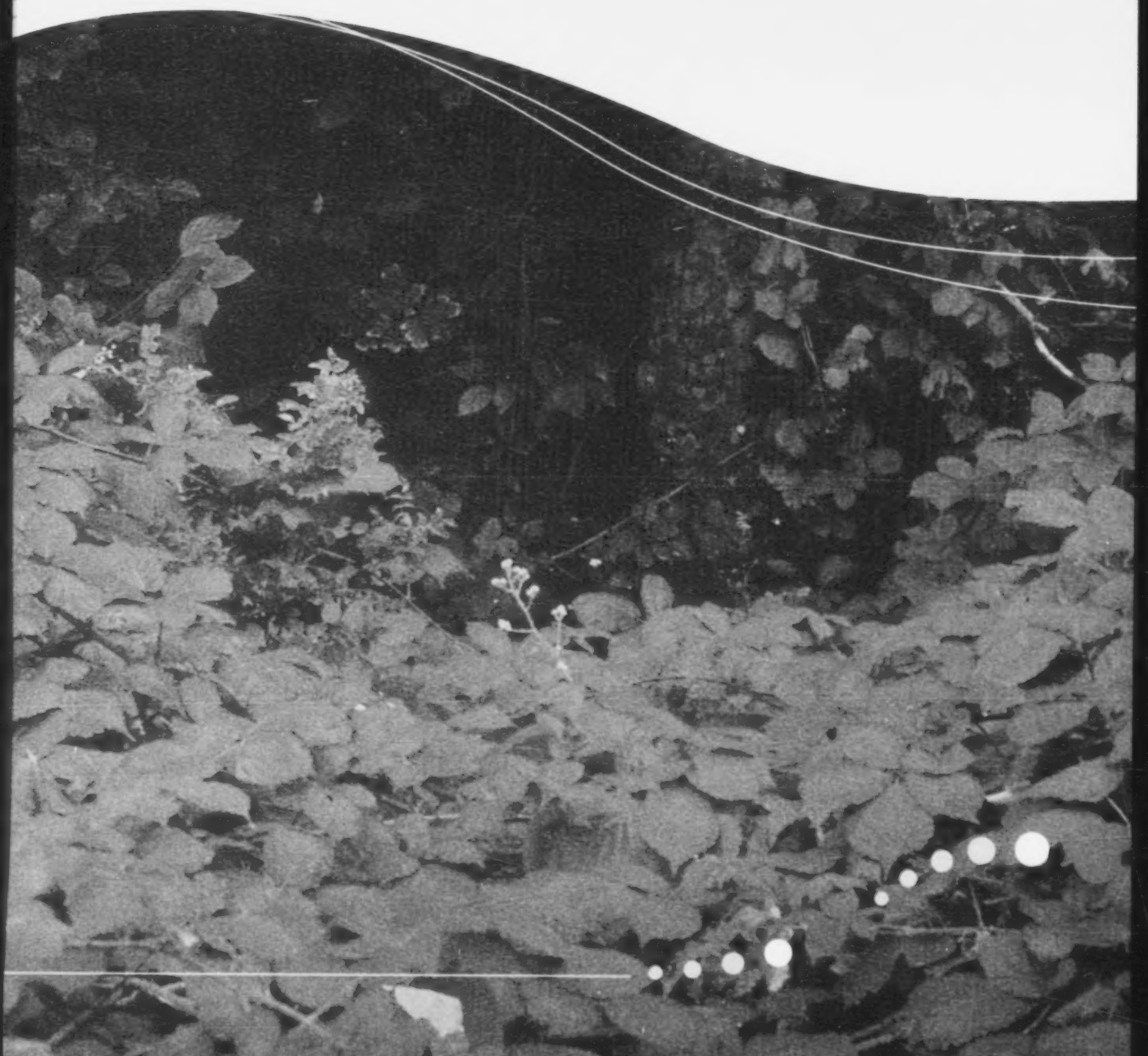
- an agreement to acquire a significant interest in businesses that operate on the Red Lake and adjacent forests immediately to the south of Pikangikum;
- an agreement with industry and the OMNR on more than 300 000 cubic metres of wood that will support the value-added enterprise (creating more than 150 direct jobs in manufacturing and another 150 direct jobs in woodlands and transportation); and
- the first set of partnership arrangements with Scandinavian forestry businesses covering various aspects of the enterprise from production to marketing.

Good News Update

Another milestone was realized in February 2007 when the Government of Manitoba announced the creation of Pimachiowin-Aki, a non-profit corporation working toward the declaration of 42 000 square kilometres of forest land on the Ontario–Manitoba border as a World Heritage Site. At the centre of the proposal is a vision laid out by the Pikangikum First Nation Elders in 1999, which led to the creation of the WFI and the pursuit of World Heritage Status. Forming Pimachiowin-Aki along with the Ontario and Manitoba governments are the Pikangikum and Poplar First Nations of Ontario, and the Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids First Nations of Manitoba. Alex Peters, president of the Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation, has been asked to serve as chairperson of the new organization.

A Forest of Opportunities: First Nations and Forestry in British Columbia

Alec Tully, June 14, 2006



Introduction

As the year 2005 ended, First Nations in British Columbia felt a fresh sense of optimism about their future, fed by expectations that the next decade would bring significant economic opportunities in a range of sectors, including forestry.

Much of this optimism followed the signing of agreements by the Government of Canada, the province of British Columbia, and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) at Kelowna in November 2005. The Transformative Change Accord pledged the three signatories to take measures to eliminate the gap in quality of life between First Nations and other British Columbians over the next decade. The accord identified health care, education, housing, and economic development as areas where the resources of government can be used to build beneficial partnership initiatives with First Nations.

The facts about First Nations in British Columbia, as reported by Statistics Canada, tell a story of serious social problems that help perpetuate a legacy of frustrated economic potential:

- In 2001, the unemployment rate for First Nations was three times higher than non-First Nations in British Columbia.
- In 2003–2004, 47% of all First Nations students finished high school, compared with 81% of non-First Nations students in British Columbia.
- Less than 8% of the First Nations population holds a university degree or certificate, compared with 23.3% of the non-First Nations population.
- The province's 120 000 Registered Status Indians can expect to live 7.3 years less than other British Columbians.
- Among First Nations children under 15 years old, 5.7% do not live with their parents, compared with 0.8% of non-First Nations children the same age.
- British Columbia is home to the greatest number of on-reserve households in Canada; these households are more than twice as likely to live in crowded conditions and their homes are 3.3 times more likely to need major repairs than off-reserve First Nations households.

Mindful of these disparities, key players in British Columbia's forest sector have implemented polices over many years that support increased forestry opportunities for First Nations. The provincial and federal governments, the forest industry, and First Nations themselves are all bringing resources and resolve to the table to support economic opportunities in forestry.

Provincial Initiatives

The province of British Columbia has been creating economic opportunities on several fronts since the Kelowna First Ministers' Meeting, working closely with the FNLC, representing the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Forestry represents a sector where government and First Nations can work together to nurture economic opportunities. Most of British Columbia's 198 First Nations live near crown land forest. There is a natural connection, forged through thousands of years of history and culture, between First Nations and the forest environment.

Allocation

Since 2003, the province of British Columbia has pursued a policy of creating greater opportunities for First Nations to participate in the forest sector, specifically through access to timber. Forest companies have traditionally dominated the process of timber allocation by competitive bid.

In 2002, the Ministry of Forests amended the Forest Act to allow First Nations to apply for forest licences by direct award rather than competitive bidding. The timber volume to support theses licences comes mostly from beetle-killed or fire-damaged trees, and unlogged timber from other licences.

Since 2002, forest and range agreements have been reached with 109 First Nations, granting access to more than 17.5 million metres of timber and sharing $123.5 million in revenue. Allocation of this timber constitutes a major new source of valuable fibre to support First Nations forestry. The province negotiates with individual First Nations through the Ministry of Forests Aboriginal Affairs Branch to forge practical partnerships that make tangible forest resources available to First Nations.

Treaty Negotiation Process

The provincial government is participating in tripartite treaty negotiations with First Nations and the federal government. According to the British Columbia Treaty Commission, 116 First Nations, organized into 45 treaty negotiation tables, are participating in one of the seven stages in the treaty process.

When a final treaty is ratified and signed, a First Nation acquires *fee simple ownership* of territory identified as treaty settlement lands during the negotiation process. *Fee simple ownership* is property ownership where one entity holds the entire ownership interest, or freehold tenure. With ownership comes control of and responsibility for natural resources, including forests. This direct ownership will give First Nations authority to manage their forests for economic opportunity or however they see fit.

The province asserts that treaties will support the material improvement of the lives of First Nations people by fostering increased economic activity, achieving greater certainty over resources, and stimulating economic investment. However, signed treaties will change neither the legacy of historic forest practices nor the challenge to manage forest resources sustainably.

Federal Initiatives

The Government of Canada is also involved in joint forestry projects with British Columbia's First Nations. For example, the $40-million six-year MPBI, announced in 2002, includes a component that helps First Nations manage the impact of the mountain pine beetle infestation on reserve forest land. The MPBI has provided First Nations with the opportunities to harvest beetle-infested trees, reforest affected land, and take measures to protect communities from the fire hazard posed by diseased forests.

The First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) is another federal initiative that builds partnerships with First Nations through forestry projects. Started over 10 years ago, the FNFP is jointly administered and funded by NRCan and INAC.

The FNFP works on a partnership basis. First Nations submit project proposals to the program administrators at Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria. Eligible project areas include forest health, silviculture, reforestation, training and capacity building, forest business proposals, and product development, logging plan preparations, community forest applications, forest licence development plans, forest management, and marketing strategies.

Funding comes jointly from the FNFP, First Nations applicants, and their partners. In 2005–2006, 41 projects in British Columbia received a total of $845 000 in FNFP funding. British Columbia's First Nations applicants and their partners contributed cash and in-kind support valued at $461 000.

The total value of projects in British Columbia during 2005–2006 was $1 306 000, funded to a level of 65% by the program. Interest in the FNFP is very strong. Demand far outweighs available funding. The program attracted 97 applicants requesting a total of $3 million for the year.

Industry Initiatives

Across British Columbia, forest companies have established working relations with First Nations for years. As a result, First Nations forestry contractors are being hired regularly to perform silviculture, tree planting, and other forestry activities. First Nations people also work in sawmills operated by forest companies.

There are numerous examples of forest companies partnering with First Nations for joint ventures in forestry that create economic opportunities. For example, Canadian Forest Products and the Wet'suwet'en

First Nation in Moricetown, just outside of Houston, British Columbia, formed a partnership to operate Kayahwood Forest Products. The joint company produces finger joints and other value-added products. The company cited the project's benefits as building a good working relationship with the band, creating employment, and supporting economic stability. Canadian Forest Products also contracts the band to provide silviculture and timber harvesting services.

The Council of Forest Industries (COFI), representing key players in British Columbia's forest sector, recognizes the importance of building good relations between First Nations and industry. COFI has also encouraged the province to establish forestry agreements with First Nations to strengthen First Nations role in the economic activity of the sector.

Cooperative Opportunities at Work

First Nations culture is community-focused, and FNFP projects reflect the specific concerns and priorities of individual First Nations. As project activities are implemented, they often touch the life of First Nations communities in meaningful ways.

Cayoose Creek Indian Band

For example, Cayoose Creek Indian Band near Lillooet suggested a unique way to involve the community in improving the health of their forests. Michelle Edwards, Aboriginal Land Steward for the band, wanted to improve forest health on reserve land. Woody debris and overgrown understory were choking an aging Douglas-fir forest, carpeting the ground in many places with a layer of dried coniferous needles six inches deep. Besides compromising forest health, the dense overgrowth constituted a serious fire hazard to the Cayoose Creek Indian Band community, located where Cayoose Creek joins the Fraser River.

In 2004, Edwards was conducting an archaeological overview of Cayoose reserve land to identify sites of cultural significance for the band. Confronted by an overgrown tangle of dead wood and understory that engulfed the forest floor, Edwards began to think about cleaning up the forest.

"It was obvious that the state of our forest posed a serious threat to the fibre supply and it obscured our archaeological sites," said Edwards. She applied to the FNFP for financial help and received $250 000 to improve forest health on the reserve. For the people-power to do the job, she turned to band members themselves.

"I began to think how we could do this as a community," she said. "How could we involve our people, including our youth, in cleaning up the forest?"

Edwards pointed out that many band members didn't really know much about the forest ecosystem, despite the community's ancient connection to the natural environment. If she could get the community directly involved, the activity might help band members reconnect with an important part of their heritage, in addition to helping the forest.

Her solution was simple and direct. She would use part of the project money to hire adult and youth band members to gather and pile dead wood and then rake up and pile the smaller debris. The plan called for paying individuals $150 for every 40 hours they worked in the bush. Adults would put in a standard working day; students would work two hours per day after school from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.

"The community really got behind the idea," Edwards said. "School buses dropped off students at the work site after school, where I met them with rakes, gloves — everything they needed. Adults often worked a full day cleaning up the forest. Some family units participated together — my own family, for example."

Edwards explained that about 40 people, age 13 to 40, cleared debris on approximately 120 hectares of forest during the spring of 2005. Almost half the participants were teenagers. She noted the project paid many dividends.

"The wood and debris piles will be burned in the winter," she said. "The forest will be healthier now. We'll get a lot of berries growing back again. And we greatly reduced the fire hazard by clearing away so much potential forest fire fuel."

Edwards added she was very pleased with the reaction of band members. The project sparked considerable social interaction by bringing young and older people together in a common endeavor.

"People started talking about what they could do with a healthy forest," Edwards said. "They became more informed about the band's archaeological sites. They talked with each other about the importance of plants, berries, and the animals that live in a healthy forest."

Edwards pointed out that word of the project's success spread to other bands in the Lillooet area. She received inquiries from First Nations interested in pursuing similar forest opportunities on their reserve land.

"I think the project helped us connect with each other, our history, and our forest," she concluded. "And I know it benefited the community as a whole by reducing the fire hazard and improving the health of our forest land."

Beecher Bay First Nation

Douglas-fir growing along the rocky Pacific coast of south Vancouver Island provides Beecher Bay First Nation with an economic resource and an inspiring natural setting. In August 2005, Beecher Bay lured American actor Burt Reynolds to the small East Sooke First Nations community of 209 people just west of Victoria. But his visit was in a professional capacity. He went there for a summer job opportunity in the forest.

"I never thought I'd get a chance to meet Burt Reynolds in person, right here on the reserve," said Chief Russell Chipps. "But I guess the moviemakers thought that Beecher Bay, with its coastline and forests, was just the right setting for their film."

Chipps referred to segments of "Dungeon Siege," a film shot on Beecher Bay First Nation land by German director Uwe Boll. The venture brought several well-known actors, plus a small army of crew and extras, to the Beecher Bay First Nation.

"We're really putting a focus on economic development for our band," Chipps said. "Getting the movie crew here was great, but we know that in the long term we've got to get the most opportunities out of the things that have been with us for generations—our natural resources. That means we've got to take care of our forests."

With $25 000 from the FNFP, Beecher Bay First Nation hired four band members and a supervisor to complete a silviculture project in Douglas-fir stands on the reserve from May to October 2005. The project included spacing 20 hectares of forest to remove overstocked juvenile firs and help the remaining trees to mature into a healthy forest, providing a source of quality wood fibre.

"We also got rid of a lot of scotch broom, an invasive species that has really moved into the forests on Beecher Bay reserve land," said Alan DeLisle of VanWest Forestry Ltd., the band's forestry consultant for the project. "To finish off, we are going back to plant trees on 18 hectares logged recently for cedar and fir."

Chipps said that Beecher Bay First Nation wants to increase the long-term productivity of its forest stands. Silviculture will help to achieve that goal by ensuring that the band's forests are properly stocked for health and growth.

"We will continue to develop our forest for the economic benefit of our band," said Chipps. "Right now we're looking at putting together a comprehensive forest management plan. Taking advantage of forest opportunities like the silviculture work through the First Nations Forestry Program helps us build capacity for the future."

Cowichan Tribes and Royal Roads University

First Nations culture has attracted world attention for a long time now, but an international gathering held on Vancouver Island in the summer of 2005 provided an opportunity to showcase a First Nations tradition rooted firmly in forestry. People attended an event devoted to non-timber forest products.

The use of non-timber forest products is deeply interwoven in First Nations culture. Items from the forest such as mushrooms, salal, and evergreens are commonplace; others are used to make natural health products or specialty woodcraft products. Today, ecotourism has also become a non-timber forest product. For several years, the FNFP has been helping First Nations communities develop a non-timber forest products industry.

With $24 970 from the program, the FNFP helped Royal Roads University in Victoria and the Cowichan Tribes, based in Duncan, to hold an event profiling non-timber forest products. Royal Roads, home to the Centre for Non-Timber Resources, hosted a combination of activities from August 27 to 29, 2005, including an academic symposium, "A Future Beneath the Trees," an industry conference, "Buy BC Wild," and a tradeshow, "Shop the Wild."

The symposium brought together international experts to discuss commercial development of non-timber forest products and its effects on rural economies and forest conservation. Buy BC Wild assembled experienced entrepreneurs exploring ways to make viable businesses with non-timber forest products. Shop the Wild, a one-day marketplace open to the public, showcased non-timber forest products and the businesses that market them. About 3000 people attended Shop the Wild, while the symposium and conference drew approximately 300 participants.

"We wanted to get involved in organizing this event for two reasons," said Stephanie Peter, natural resource technician for the Cowichan Tribes. "Non-timber forest products play a major role in the life of our people, so we have a keen interest in promoting the sector. Also, as coordinators for First Nations participants, we knew we had a golden opportunity to develop strong contacts with other British Columbia bands interested in non-timber forest products."

The FNFP supported Peter by helping to arrange for attendance and accommodation of 20 First Nations representatives. Attendees came from bands across the province, including Siska Indian Band, Neskonlith Band, St. Mary's Indian Band, Nisga'a Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Adams Lake First Nation, Songhees Nation, Cowichan Tribes, Squamish Nation, and 'Namgis First Nation. A delegate from the Aboriginal Forest Industries Council also attended.

"The forest has always been a grocery store for people of the Cowichan Tribes," said Peter. "Many plants that provide natural, healthy food sources grow on the forest floor. One example is Indian potato, or sqewth in our language."

But Peter believes the importance of non-timber forest products for First Nations goes beyond a traditional food source or the basis for a contemporary business venture—it really plays a significant cultural role. For generations First Nations people have been using the natural resources available from the forest surrounding them. Knowledge of plants and their uses has always been a part of First Nations culture.

Non-timber forest products can also play a vital economic role in First Nations communities. For example, in 1997, the commercial harvest of mushrooms and other products employed 32 000 people, First Nations and non-natives combined, and generated $280 million, just part of the sector's total $680 million revenue for that year in British Columbia.

"Besides food, culture, and economic development, there's also an important ecological aspect to non-timber forest products," said Peter. "A healthy forest is a renewable source of non-timber forest products. That means we need to be concerned and informed about issues like overharvesting and invasive species."

Peter was encouraged by the success of the combined symposium/conference/trade show. The Cowichan Tribes took up the opportunity with a definite idea of getting experience that would be useful in organizing other events.

"We're facing some on-going challenges in non-timber forest products," she said. "When communities grow, we often lose areas like forest and woodland meadows to urban development. Access to forested areas can be a problem for us. And there's always the work needed to build strong First Nations businesses in the sector."

Non-timber forest products will continue to provide food and economic development, as well as an activity supportive of First Nations culture. Peter said that First Nations must continue to work with one another to build strong businesses and address issues like forest health that affect the non-timber forest product sector.

The FNFP has supported many non-timber forest product-related projects involving First Nations communities across the province. Opportunities range from developing feasibility studies and business plans to the production and marketing of products, including jams and jellies, wreaths and botanicals, oils, and various hand-crafted items.

Conclusion

Other FNFP projects demonstrate the successes that these joint endeavors make possible. Evidence suggests that some benefit does accrue to First Nations through cumulative capacity building, with support from federal, provincial, and private investment in forestry initiatives. In addition, a 2004 report prepared for the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, the Forest Products Association of Canada, and the FNFP noted that First Nations and forest companies have established a range of business relationships in recent years. This is a development that should support increased First Nations participation in forestry opportunities in the future.

Progress is being achieved through steady capacity building, thanks to programs like the FNFP, support from the province, partnerships between First Nations and the forestry industry, and the growing initiative and capacity of First Nations themselves.

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First Nations Forestry Program facts. Accomplishments. April 2005. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Science and Programs Branch, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ottawa. 2 p.

Posters

Planting futures. First Nations forestry program poster (11 x 14.75 or 18 x 24) 2005. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, BC. Aussi disponible sous le titre « Planter l'avenir ».

Conferences / Workshops

First Nation Youth: Partnerships and Careers in Forestry, Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 16–18, 2005

Under the Canopy—Exploring Non-timber Forest Products, Pre-conference workshop: Traditions, Communities and Enterprises—Wahta Mohawk First Nation, Bala, Ontario, April 2005

Under the Canopy—Exploring Non-timber Forest Products, Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville, Ontario, April 2005

Natural Resources Aboriginal Awareness Week, May 2005

National Forest Week, Ottawa, Ontario, May 2005

South of 60 Resource Management/Capacity Building and Trade Fair, Edmonton, Alberta, May 2005

TRADEX Forestry Show, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, May 2005

Youth Science Forum Trade Show and Career Day, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, May 2005

Forestry and Science for Aboriginal Youth, Edmonton, Alberta, September 2005

Seminar on Certification of Forestry Practices for Aboriginal Forestry Organizations, Quebec City, September 27–28, 2005

CANDO Conference, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, October 2005

Engaging Aboriginal Youth in Forestry, Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 2006

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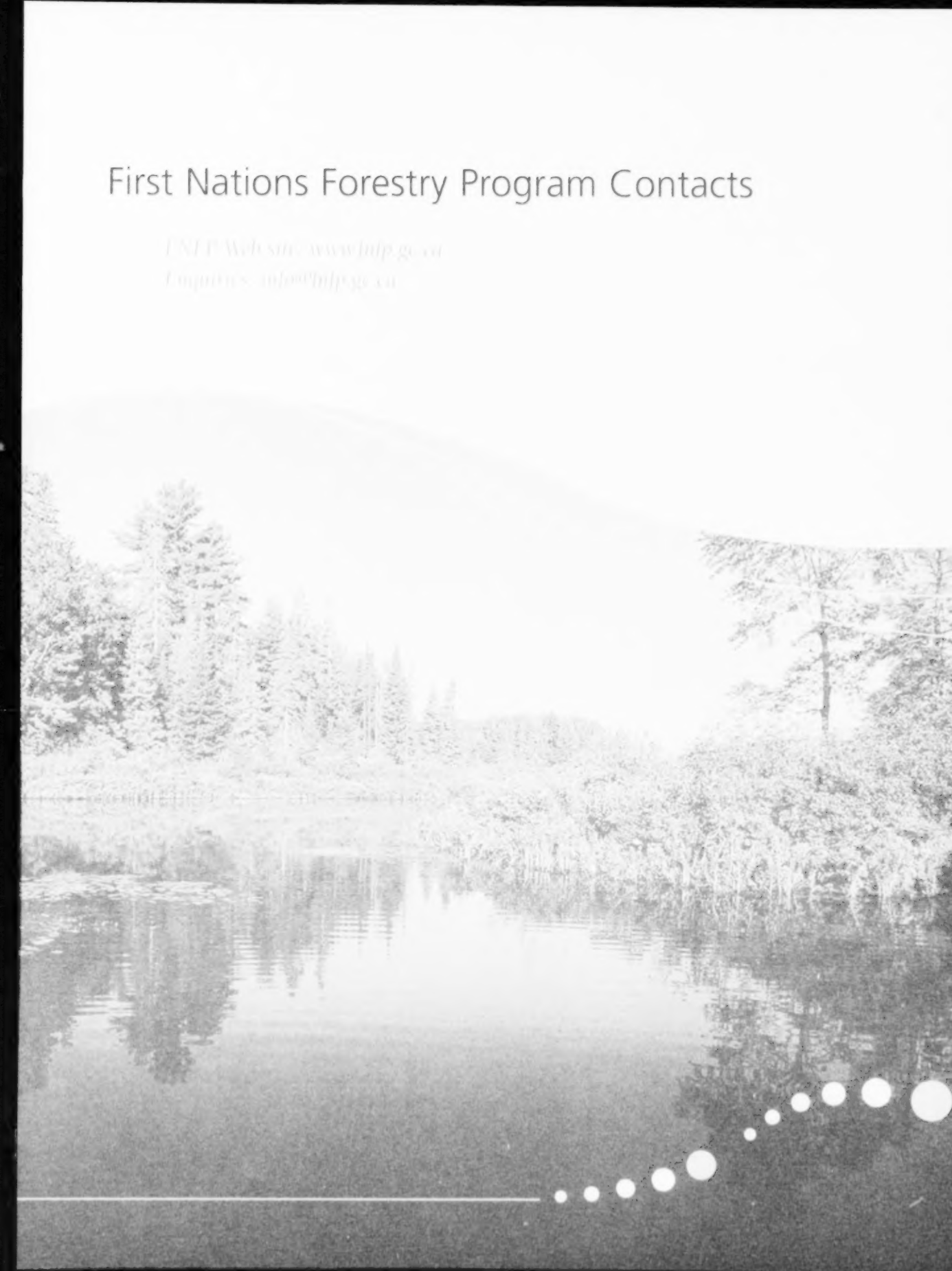

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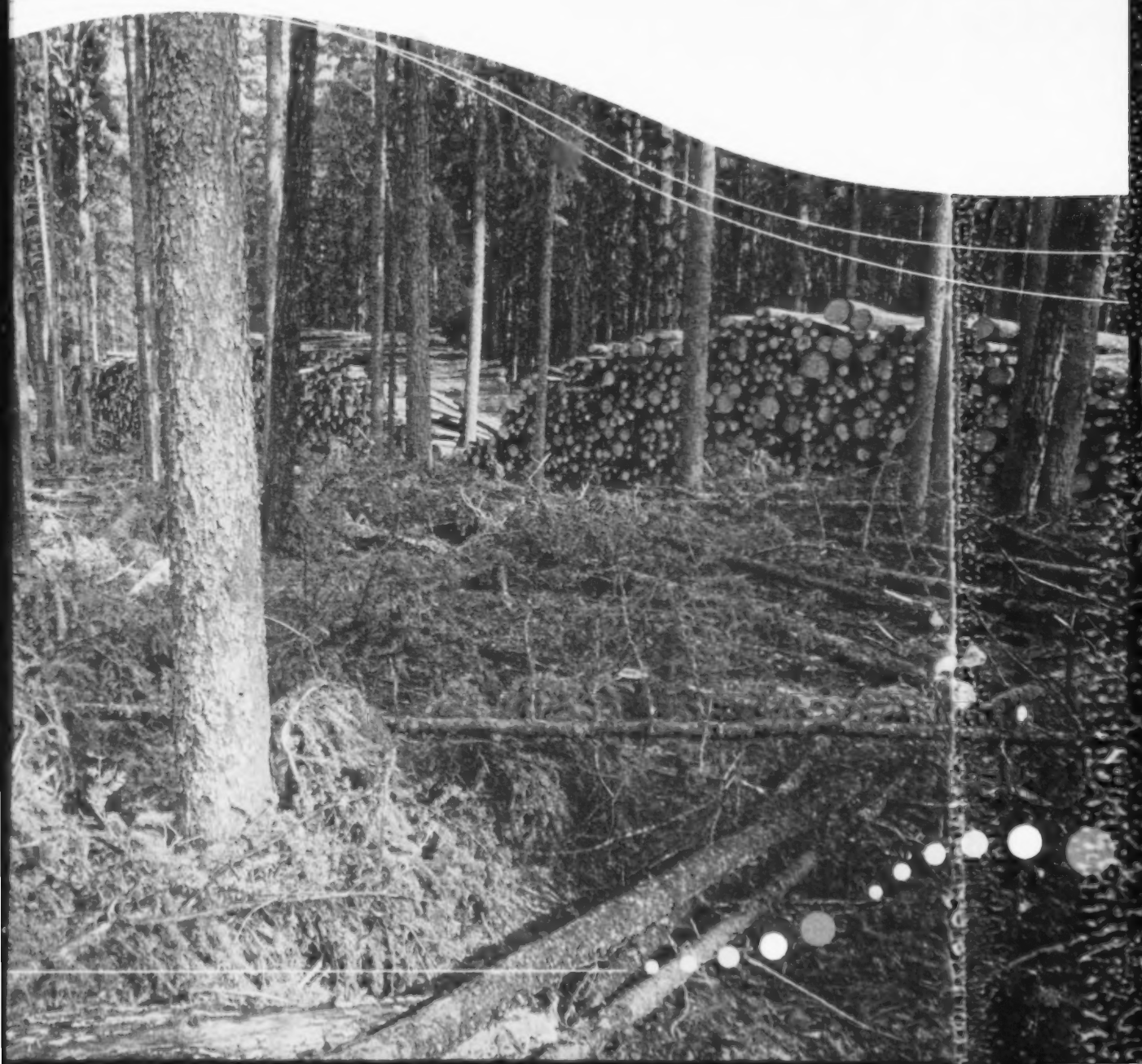
Appendix

FNFP Projects by Province and Territory, 2005–2006



FNFP Projects by Province and Territory, 2005–2006

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Alberta					
Beaver Lake Cree Nation FireSmart Plan Development and Preparation	Beaver Lake Cree Nation	20 000	8 500	0	28 500
Forest Regeneration Survey Training	Bigstone Cree Nation	14 500	8 000	0	22 500
Forestry Training and Forest Management Strategy Update	Blood Tribe	20 669	13 500	17 000	51 169
Forest Management Plan—Phase 1	Cold Lake First Nation	30 000	8 000	0	38 000
Duncan's First Nation Reforestation	Duncan's First Nation	27 000	16 000	0	43 000
FireSmart Plan Implementation for Kapawe'no First Nation	Kapawe'no First Nation	20 000	23 500	0	43 500
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council Forestry Coordinator	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	25 000	15 000	0	40 000
Loon River Coniferous Regeneration Management—Phase 1	Loon River First Nation	40 000	15 000	5 000	60 000
Maskwachees Cultural College Tree Nursery/ Community Action Project	Maskwachees Cultural College	15 000	6 300	0	21 300
Forest Inventory Update and Analysis	Piikani Nation	37 000	34 588	0	71 588
Blood Tribe Traditional Land Use Study Skills Training	Red[illegible] Community College	30 000	59 500	24 000	113 500
FireSmart Plan—Sucker Creek First Nation	Sucker Creek First Nation	20 000	7 150	0	27 150
FireSmart Plan Implementation	Swan River First Nation	30 000	31 400	0	61 400
Conference and Meeting Attendance Administration—Alberta First Nation Representatives	Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta	13 331	4 675	0	18 006
Atlantic Region					
New Brunswick Aboriginal Forestry Initiative	ASEP-NB inc.	70 000	238 187	879 257	1 187 444
Natuaganek Forestry Certification	Eel Ground (Natuaganek) First Nation	16 710	31 388	3 100	51 198
Sustainable Development from Non-Timber Forest Products	Madawaska Maliseet First Nation	17 400	1 900	12 500	31 800
Forest Management Plan	Metepenagiag First Nation	24 765	136 440	0	161 205
Pabineau First Nation Silviculture and Reforestation Program 2005	Pabineau First Nation	35 000	10 000	0	45 000
2005 Forest Management Activities	St. Mary's First Nation	35 000	22 640	0	57 640
Maliseet Historical Portage	Woodstock First Nation	20 000	11 660	0	31 660
Planning Variable Retention Trials, and Monitoring Effects on Wildlife	Innu Nation	25 300	15 000	10 000	50 300
Silviculture	Miawpukek First Nation	15 000	96 558	0	111 558
Forest Improvement Work on Nova Scotia's First Nations Lands	Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	177 800	88 500	0	266 300
First Nations Junior Ranger Program—Phase 1	Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	24 000	16 000	0	40 000
Lennox Island Aboriginal Ecotourism and First Nation Forestry	Lennox Island	10 300	4 000	0	14 300
British Columbia					
Building Success in A[illegible]ginal Forestry—A Business Skills Workshop for First Nations	Aboriginal Forest Industries Council	12 500	5 200	0	17 700

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Regional Business Skill Development Workshops	Aboriginal Forest Industries Council	25 000	6 300	6 239	37 539
BC Management Board Capacity	Aboriginal Forest Industries Council	8 000	2 000	0	10 000
Tenure Workshop and Web Site Development	Aboriginal Forest Industries Council	17 000	4 250	0	21 250
Smallwood Forest Licence Development Plan NRFL A73171	Adams Lake, Kamloops, Neskonlith, and Simpcw First Nations	25 000	16 000	0	41 000
Beecher Bay First Nation 2005/06 Forestry Project	Beecher Bay First Nation	25 000	7 750	0	32 750
Reforestation of Burned-Over Reserve Lands	Bridge River Indian Band	25 000	11 800	0	36 800
Stewardship and Sustainability Workshop	Canim Lake Band	21 650	4 650	6 850	33 150
Community Forest Application	Canoe Creek Indian Band	20 074	0	13 500	33 574
Community Forest Initiatives Project	Cayoose Creek Indian Band	25 000	7 250	0	32 250
Chawathil Forestry Strategic Planning Process	Chawathil	20 000	2 500	2 500	25 000
Forest Management Plan	Cheam Indian Band	25 000	4 750	2 100	31 850
Enhancing Safety and Sustainability in the Cheslatta Community Forest	Cheslatta Carrier Nation	25 000	21 769	5 792	52 561
Central Interior First Nations Wood Products Secretariat	Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations	24 850	11 350	7 700	43 900
Non-Timber Forest Products International Event	Cowichan Tribes	24 970	0	7 500	32 470
Douglas First Nation 2005/06 Forestry Project	Douglas First Nation	22 800	3 000	3 800	29 600
IR #9 Short-Term Management Plan	Huu-ay-aht First Nation	20 000	0	5 000	25 000
Stagnant Stands Inventory and Prescriptions for LSIB IR13	Lower Similkameen Indian Band	25 000	8 675	0	33 675
District Lot #6/Cheslakee IR#3 Forest Inventory and Management Plan	Namgis First Nation	25 000	16 000	0	41 000
Nazko On-Reserve Forest Management Plan	Nazko Indian Band	24 428	6 107	0	30 535
Entrepreneurial and Small Business Conference	Neskonlith Advisory Services	5 000	8 339	0	13 339
Neskonlith Band Marketing Plan Project	Neskonlith Band	25 000	8 375	0	33 375
Wildlife and Plant Modeling Project	Nicola Tribal Association	25 000	3 000	76 000	104 000
Woodlot Licence 1500—Phase 1 and 2 TEM Project	Osoyoos Indian Band	12 000	3 000	0	15 000
SIB Forestry and Logging Business Plan	Sechelt Indian Band	21 540	4 700	2 500	28 740
Skeetchestn Innovative Harvesting Research and Business Planning Development	Skeetchestn Indian Band	22 000	14 500	0	36 500
First Nations Silviculture Training Program	Stekyoodenview Contracting	25 000	2 230	2 800	30 030
Skway Value-Added Milling and Woodworking	Skway First Nation	25 000	5 293	11 275	41 568
Forest Management and Marketing Strategy	Soowahlie First Nation	24 000	4 800	1 200	30 000
Strategic Forestry Business Plan Development	Spallumcheen Band	12 000	3 000	0	15 000
Economic Development of Squamish Nation Special Forest Products—Devil's Club	Squamish Nation	25 000	4 000	8 000	37 000
Review of Sawmill and Micromill Feasibility Study	Takla Development Corporation	25 000	5 000	5 000	35 000
TRTFN EBM Plan and Capacity Building	Taku River Tlingit First Nation	25 000	7 000	5 000	37 000
FNFP 2005/06 Forestry Project	Tsay Keh Dene Band	25 000	13 416	0	38 416
T'Sou-ke First Nations 2005/06 Forestry Project	T'Sou-ke First Nation	25 000	6 850	0	31 850
UNB Woodlot Expansion Application 2005/06	Upper Nicola Band	25 000	10 046	0	35 046
Service Agreement Workshop	Upper Nicola Band	12 407	3 102	0	15 509

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Stand Management Surveys and Prescriptions for USIB Reserves	Upper Similkameen Indian Band	25 000	8 675	0	33 675
Rapid Response-Initial Attack Fire Suppression and Abatement Company	Whispering Pines/ Clinton Indian Band	14 984	3 746	0	18 730
Manitoba					
Regional Vocational Training Feasibility Study	Black River First Nation	27 500	4 000	0	31 500
Cultural and Community Restoration	Dakota Tipi	10 000	3 000	0	13 000
First Nations Skill Inventory	First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership	15 000	24 000	100 000	139 000
Forest Community Planning	Hollow Water First Nation	16 000	24 500	29 000	69 500
Mink Ranching and Non-Timber Forest Products	Lake Manitoba	5 000	45 000	163 100	213 100
Local Lumber Harvesting—Single Person Dwelling Initiative	Manto Sipi Cree Nation	35 000	62 410	0	97 410
Pawistik Sawmill Incorporated	Mathias Colomb Cree Nation	25 000	84 000	0	109 000
Visitor's Centre Project—Phase III	Ochekwi Sipi Economic Development Corporation	43 500	14 608	20 269	78 377
OCN Forestry Management II	Opaskwayak Cree Nation	10 000	10 500	0	20 500
Peguis Forest Harvesting Training Program	Peguis Development Corporation	25 300	37 384	25 000	87 684
Environmental Capacity Development	Rolling River First Nation	19 451	5 345	0	24 796
Forestry Management Plan For Log/ Timber Project	St. Theresa Point First Nation	10 000	3 500	3 500	17 000
Forestry Technician Proposal	Swampy Cree Tribal Council	27 500	10 000	100 000	137 500
Conference Travel	Swampy Cree Tribal Council	10 000	4 000	0	14 000
National Capital Region					
Supporting Coordination of the National Forest Strategy Theme 3: "Rights and Participation of Aboriginal Peoples"	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	15 000	300	5 000	20 300
Northwest Territories					
Northwest Territories Forest Industry Development Workshop—Travel Expense Assistance	Akaitcho Territory Government	7 852	9 688	10 000	27 540
Pre-planning for the Deninu Kue forestry workshop	Deninu K'ue First Nation	9 160	13 000	8 040	30 200
JMR Log Homes Ltd. Marketing and Promotional Initiative	Jean Marie River First Nation	11 000	2 800	0	13 800
K'asho Gotine Timber Harvesting Training and Community Sawmill Business Plan Development	K'asho Gotine Koe Dene Band	25 000	46 034	5 000	76 034
K'i tu / Birch Syrup School Project—Pre-production	K'atlodeeche First Nation	1 100		1 200	2 300
Chainsaw Training	Salt River First Nation #195	3 000	4 100	0	7 100
Feasibility Study for Log Homes in West Point	West Point First Nation	23 108	5 777	0	28 885
Ontario					
Non-Timber Forest Product Trends and Impacts on Ontario First Nations—A Case Study on Canada Yew	Aboriginal Strategy Group	12 800	3 360	3 505	19 665

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Value-Added Wood Manufacturing and Processing Business Planning	Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek	17 000	22 830	3 500	43 330
First Nation Liaison Worker—Northern Ontario Plant Database	Batchewana First Nation	18 000	0	6 700	24 700
Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation and Training	Beausoleil First Nation	16 000	19 760	50 000	85 760
C.W. Dive Services Underwater Logging	C.W. Dive Services	7 500	76 250	0	83 750
Staff Training and Experience to Enhance Forestry Operations	Dokis First Nation	18 000	22 250	50 000	90 250
First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program	Eagle Lake First Nation	10 378	0	75 091	85 469
Slate Falls All-Weather Road Forestry Training	First Nations Forestry Inc.	20 000	0	20 000	40 000
First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program	Fort William First Nation	23 296	0	184 503	207 799
Business Enhancement for Georgina Island Tourism Company	Georgina Island Tourism Company	7 000	6 000	0	13 000
Geographic Information System Forestry Upgrade and Training	Grand Council of Treaty #3 Representative Services	16 000	5 000	10 000	31 000
Forest Management Plan—On-reserve Lands	Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek	16 000	500	2 382	18 882
Reforestation Training Partnership	Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	18 303	7 273	40 837	66 413
First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program	Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	13 134	0	88 849	101 983
Enhanced Cedar Oil Production	Manitoulin Cedar Leaf Oil	5 485	2 000	0	7 485
Marten Falls Winter Road Realignment Project	Marten Falls First Nation	10 000	10 200	0	20 200
Partnerships in Forestry Project	Matachewan First Nation	11 500	16 513	20 000	48 013
First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program	Mattagami First Nation	18 192	0	130 647	148 839
Ground Hemlock Plantation Feasibility Study	Michipicoten First Nation	18 000	4 000	0	22 000
Forestry/Heavy Equipment Training	Missanabie Cree First Nation	17 000	5 000	82 740	104 740
Forest Management Plan Update and Final Implementation	Mississauga First Nation	18 000	52 200	0	70 200
Travel Assistance to "A Future Beneath the Trees" Conference in Victoria, BC	Mohawks of Akwesasne	1 960	140	350	2 450
Stand Structure Attributers During the Transition from Cohort 2 to 3 of Boreal Mixedwood Stands Following Partial Harvest	Moose Band Development Corporation	14 000	2 500	61 500	78 000
Forestry Contract Services Business Enhancement	M'TIWA-KI Services	10 000	30 000	0	40 000
2005–2006 NAFA Project	National Aboriginal Forestry Association	58 707	29 861	125 570	214 138
Nibinamik Planning Area Mapping and Analysis	Nibinamik First Nation	20 000	5 000	0	25 000
Lands and Resources Secretariat Capacity Building	Nishnawbe Aski Nation	22 500	15 700	37 166	75 366
Forestry Unit Business/Marketing Strategy Development	North Shore Tribal Council	25 400	26 500	0	51 900
Forest Harvest Planning	N'Swakamok Forestry Corporation	16 000	24 500	0	40 500
Resource Capacity Building in Forestry Development	Ochiichagwe'babigo'ining Ojibway Nation	16 000	13 600	0	29 600

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Furniture Stock Processing Facility Business Plan	Pays Plat First Nation	20 000	7 500	0	27 500
Access to Forestry Opportunities on the Spanish Forest	Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation	8 500	2 500	0	11 000
Sand Point First Nation Cedar Resource Use Strategy and Feasibility Strategy	Sand Point First Nation	11 500	1 000	4 000	16 500
Serpent River Digital Management System — Community Forest Resource Inventory Update and Skills Capacity Enhancement	Serpent River First Nation	16 000	21 750	33 000	70 750
"Under the Canopy" Non-Timber Forest Products Pre-conference Workshop	Shawanaga First Nation	10 000	0	5 925	15 925
Integrated Community Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest Management	Six Nations of the Grand River	16 000	23 400	25 201	64 601
Thessalon First Nation Grower Training and Operations Project	Thessalon First Nation Development Corporation	17 000	27 000	137 500	181 500
Forestry Planning and Capacity Building	United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin (UCCM)	11 592	4 398	0	15 990
Traditional Land-Use Area Co-Management Initiative	Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	16 000	15 500	10 000	41 500
Whitefeather Forest Management Authority — Partnership and Institutional Development	Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation	14 000	40 360	0	54 360
Forest Harvest and Operational Planning	Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve	17 000	27 000	0	44 000
Quebec					
Négociation d'une entente décennale de gestion intégrée des ressources et participation à deux séminaires	Conseil de bande des Abénakis de Wôlinak	10 190	23 465	13 660	47 315
Formation de travailleurs sylvicoles et réalisation d'un plan de développement du réseau routier	Conseil de la Nation Huronne-wendat	19 290	52 123	110 000	181 413
Mise en œuvre d'un comité de gardiens de la forêt et formation en gestion du territoire	Conseil de la Nation Micmac de Gespeg	22 602	28 345	0	50 947
Services techniques	Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni	18 355	16 537	0	34 892
Travaux d'aménagement forestier sur réserve et services techniques	Conseil des Abénakis d'Odanak	2 864	967	0	3 831
Soutien au service forestier de la communauté et études de potentiel	Conseil des Anicinapek de Kitcisakik	27 055	381 850	0	408 905
Travaux forestiers, inventaires et techniques sur réserve. Formation pour ouvriers sylvicoles	Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci	27 713	27 587	0	55 300
Développement de l'expertise forestière dans la communauté et formation pour ouvriers sylvicoles	Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit	16 019	34 990	0	51 009
Analyse et adaptation d'une partie de plan général sur terres publiques	Conseil des Innus d'Essipit	17 823	7 386	0	25 209
Analyse économique du potentiel forestier, mesures d'harmonisation et étude de l'utilisation traditionnelle d'un territoire	Conseil des Montagnais de Natashquan	23 802	11 898	25 000	60 700
Consultation de communautés					

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Instauration d'un programme de compagnonnage, formation pour logiciel de cartographie numerique et formation et encadrement d'un nouveau technicien forestier autochtone	Conseil des Montagnais du Lac St-Jean	19 562	8 369	55 254	83 185
Implementation of Harmonization Process in Forestry and Feasibility Study for Non-Timber Forest Products	Eagle Village First Nation – Kipawa	24 353	113 280	71 224	208 857
Élaboration de criteres et indicateurs de consultation des Premières Nations et support au comite provincial autochtone	Institut de développement durable des Premières Nations du Quebec et du Labrador (IDD - PNQL)	17 167	6 437	0	23 604
Community Consultation on Harmonization Measures, Training, and Forest Management Activities On-reserve	Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	53 000	208 400	0	261 400
Development of a Forestry Policy for Reserve Woodland	Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government	24 048	9 882	0	33 930
On-reserve Forest Management, Negotiation, and Business Plan	Micmacs of Gesgapegiag	33 490	16 999	22 550	73 039
Travaux d'aménagement forestier sur reserve et services techniques	Première Nation Malécite de Viger	11 680	4 659	0	16 339
Travaux, services techniques et plan d'amenagement forestier sur reserve					
Validation d'un modèle d'aménagement forêt-bleuet	SADF de Betsiamites	53 000	110 828	0	163 828
Implantation d'un systeme de gestion environnementale	SEC Services forestiers Opitciwan	23 515	28 542	0	52 057
Activites de formation de nouveau personnel administratif et technique, inventaire multi-ressources et rencontre d'information forestiere	Services forestiers et territoriaux de Manawan	20 390	92 534	0	112 924
Formation de personnel technique interne et activite de sensibilisation de la population aux travaux d'amenagement forestier	Services forestiers et territoriaux de Manawan	26 745	40 158	0	66 903
Training of Forest Workers on GIS and Harmonization Measures	Timiskaming First Nation	19 880	38 512	26 620	85 012
Integrated Project of Land Development on the Timiskaming First Nation Reserve and Supervision of Two Off-reserve Brush Cutting Contracts	Timiskaming First Nation	31 450	187 156	0	218 606
On-reserve Forest Management	Waswanipi Mishtuk Corporation	53 000	482 927	30 000	565 927
Saskatchewan					
Sawmill Upgrading	Canoe Lake First Nation	40 000	13 000	0	53 000
Implementation of FireSmart in Community Program	Day Star First Nation	20 000	15 600	0	35 600
Plantation Establishment and Release	James Smith Cree Nation	50 000	18 500	0	68 500
METC School to Work	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	19 440	7 231	0	26 671
Lands and Resources Dept. Support for Meadow Lake Tribal Council	Meadow Lake Tribal Council	22 000	7 720	0	29 720
Amisk-Atik Forestry Field Services	Mee-Toos Forest Products Ltd.	35 000	20 270	0	55 270
Mistawasis Plantation Release	Mistawasis First Nation	20 000	9 450	0	29 450

Project title	Proponent	FNFP ($)	First Nations ($)	Partners ($)	Total project value ($)
Forest Inventory	Muskowekwan	20 000	10 500	0	30 500
PBCN Forest Resource Management/ Development Plan	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	37 000	180 000	0	217 000
GIS Database Technician	Prince Albert Grand Council	36 060	55 975	33 000	125 035
Wildland Firefighter Certification	Prince Albert Grand Council	41 100	81 300	67 800	190 200
Afforestation Plantation Maintenance	Sturgeon Lake First Nation	20 000	10 000	0	30 000
Yukon					
Council of Yukon First Nations					
FNFP Yukon 2005–2006	Council of Yukon First Nations	98 200	32 400	0	130 600